

Priority

Certified copies of the four German applications for which priority is claimed are submitted with this amendment.

Applicant's attorney is authorized to comment on behalf of Applicant, and hereby certifies that neither the international application nor the designation of the United States was withdrawn or considered to be withdrawn prior to the filing date of the present national application.

Specification

The values in the international application are the correct values. Entries in tables 1-3 that differ from the international application were typing errors. These errors are corrected in this amendment.

In Tables 2 and 3 the letter A before some of the entries in the thickness column means that the surface is an aspheric surface.

This application is a continuation of PCT application PCT/EP99/09235 filed November 27, 1999. A certified copy of the PCT application is attached. It shows that the United States is a designated country for national filing.

The introduction to the Specification now refers to the PCT application PCT/EP99/09235. A substitute specification is attached hereto.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112(2)

Claim 19 indicates that at least three positive lenses are of the lens group of the third bulge and are arranged before the pupil plane. This provides sufficient antecedent basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 11, 17 and 18 would be allowable if written to overcome the 112(2) rejections and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-18 are canceled. Claims 19 through 92 are added. These claims incorporate allowable claims 9 and 11 and should be allowable. These claims also provide proper antecedent bases.

Claims 19 through 92 also overcome the Examiner's objections raised against claims 10, 14 and 18.

Claim 10 was an obvious error. The "overcorrecting air space" is arranged behind the pupil plane.

In claim 14 the crystals comprised not all the listed fluoride crystals, but any of them.

Claim 18 should have been dependent on claim 17 and not claim 16.

Claim 17 should not have been dependent on claim 11. But there was an error in adapting the claims to US style and practice. Claim 17 corresponded to PCT-claim 12, which was dependent on PCT-claim 11, which was dependent on claims 1 to 10, which was US claim 16. So US claim 17 should have been dependent on claim 16.

Double Patenting

Applicant is advised that claims 5 and 6 will be objected to as being substantial duplicates of claims 1 and 2 if the latter claims are found allowable.

Claims 5 and 6 are not substantial duplicate of claims 1 and 2. There is not only a slight difference in wording. For the skilled person there is a difference between an

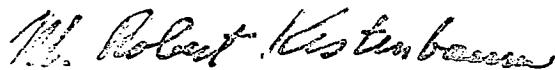
image plane as such and a tangential image plane. For explanation we submit as an attachment hereto text from the optics textbook "Optics" from Eugene Hecht. On page 226 et sqq. the image errors "astigmatism" and "field curvature" are explained. Due to astigmatism an image plane is split into tangential and sagittal image surfaces (see also Fig. 6.27 on page 230). As you can see in Figure 6.24 on page 228 the spokes of a spoked wheel are imaged sharply in the sagittal focal plane wherein the rim is imaged sharply in the tangential focal plane. For imaging of an aperture stop it is sufficient to correct the tangential imaging. This is part of the present invention. You will find also in the description explanations (paragraph [0016] and [0017] of the description of the present specification ("the image error compromise in the image plane I chosen so that the image field curvature is partially compensated by astigmatism").

Therefore, wherein in claims 1 and 2 the curvature of the pupil plane is limited, in claims 5 and 6 the curvature of the tangential image surface is limited.

Wherefore further consideration and allowance of the claims in this application is respectfully requested.

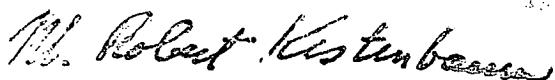
A three-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested. Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 is enclosed to cover the prescribed Large Entity three-month extension fee of \$950, \$258 for 3 additional independent claims at \$86 per claim, and \$972 for 54 additional claims at \$18 per claim. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 11-0665. A duplicate of this page is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S Postal Service as a first class mail in an envelope with adequate postage addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 3, 2003.



M. Robert Kestenbaum